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C Vietnam: Sporadic enemy military activity marked the Vietnamese Communist holiday of 19 August.

Communist attacks fell far short of what had been forecast [redacted] during the past few weeks. Slippage in enemy timetables because of allied operations may account for some of the shortfall, but overblown accounts by the Communists of their objectives were probably quite common.

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US troops engaged Communist forces in two separate engagements some 30 miles south of Da Nang. Heavy fighting erupted as contact was made with the enemy, whose losses were placed at 143 killed.

Increased enemy military activity on the two Communist holidays of 19 August and 2 September has been forecast repeatedly in reports concerning the goals of the current autumn campaign.

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A North Vietnamese delegation arrived in Peking on 17 August, presumably to negotiate new economic and military aid agreements with the Chinese. The head of the mission has made annual trips to other Communist countries since 1965 to line up aid commitments for the following year. The current mission, as did the one which was in Moscow recently, may also be seeking assurances concerning Soviet rail shipments through China. Hanoi almost certainly is apprehensive about maintenance of these shipments because of current Sino-Soviet tensions.
[redacted]

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West Germany - NPT: Bonn plans new talks to clarify certain questions concerning the Nonproliferation Treaty.

The agreement between the coalition parties to hold further discussions with the Western allies improves chances that the treaty can be kept from becoming an issue in the current election campaign. A statement by Science Minister Stoltenberg that these talks ought not to be spun out may mean that opposition to the NPT is lessening. Stoltenberg, a frequent critic of the treaty, appeared to be hinting that he would not oppose West Germany's signing if some additional concessions could be obtained.

Among the points Bonn still hopes to clear up is the question of what to do should the Soviets contradict the US interpretations of the treaty. The Germans also hope to obtain US approval for the wording of their own statement of interpretation which they would make at the time of signature. Finally, they will seek assurances against a cutoff of nuclear fuel supplies in the event that negotiations on safeguard verification arrangements are not completed within the prescribed time schedule.

The cabinet meeting on 13 August also decided that Bonn would not pursue further with Moscow the issue of intervention rights, which the USSR claims under the UN Charter, until after the talks with the US and the UK. [redacted]

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Japan: Student extremists are likely to exploit violent opposition to a new university reform to fuel major demonstrations against US-Japanese talks that begin early next month.

The reform, which will increase the government's involvement in restoring order to troubled campuses, was rammed through the Diet earlier this month by the ruling conservatives. The opposition parties and press have accused the conservatives of making a mockery of parliamentary democracy. They claim that the reform measure will fan, rather than alleviate, the campus unrest that has plagued Japan for years.

The conservatives, with an eye on general elections expected early next year, were anxious to show to the Japanese public and the right wing of the party a willingness to deal firmly with student violence. The government may also have wanted to dispose of as much controversial legislation as possible to clear the way for discussions on Okinawan reversion and the US-Japan security treaty when the Diet reconvenes in late fall.

Radical students staged a number of demonstrations on 17 August to protest the university reform law, which took effect that day. The most serious incident occurred at Hiroshima University, where 1,200 riot police were bombarded by Molotov cocktails while moving to dislodge entrenched students. Demonstrations also occurred in Tokyo and on campuses in Kyushu and Hokkaido.

Student extremists will try to increase the turnout for demonstrations planned to protest Foreign Minister Aichi's trip to the US in early September by exploiting the discontent over university reform. These demonstrations are intended as a warm-up for all-out student action in November, when Prime Minister Sato is scheduled to visit the US. [redacted]

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UN-Korea: There is likely to be a repetition of the annual debate on the Korean question in this fall's session of the UN General Assembly.

Fourteen Communist and neutralist nations have requested that the agenda include an item calling for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Korea. Supporters of the UN presence in South Korea will probably submit the report of the UN Commission for the Unification and Rehabilitation of Korea to the General Assembly to counter the pro-Pyongyang tactic. In previous sessions of the General Assembly, the members have always reaffirmed the UN role by substantial margins.

The initial focus will be the General Assembly's political committee, which has consistently maintained that North Korea must accept the authority of the UN peacekeeping machinery before it can participate in the Korean debate. Pyongyang is seeking an unconditional invitation from the political committee because it fears that acceptance of the UN presence would be tantamount to admitting North Korea's responsibility for the Korean war.

Pyongyang has undertaken a diplomatic offensive to gain adherents for its position. In addition to sending delegations throughout Africa and Asia, it reportedly invited 20 UN ambassadors to visit North Korea this summer. The North Koreans hope eventually to muster enough backers to end the UN's support for the American military presence in South Korea and, coincidentally, gain national prestige and recognition.

The South Koreans are aware of the growing apathy among new nations toward the annual debate on the Korean question and are concerned that this will lead to Pyongyang's being treated as Seoul's equal. To strengthen support for its position, South Korea has sent goodwill missions to Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe. [redacted]

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India: Tension remains high in the ruling Congress Party as the country awaits the counting of ballots tomorrow in the presidential election. The hours before the votes were cast on 16 August were marked by further sharp exchanges between party bosses who back the official Congress candidate, Sanjiva Reddy, and Prime Minister Gandhi, whose followers support former vice president V.V. Giri. Reddy was the favorite before Mrs. Gandhi's intervention last week. The result is now expected to be close. Members of the state legislative assemblies and of both houses of parliament vote for president in a complicated system of weighted balloting which divides the total number of votes evenly between parliament and the assemblies. [redacted]

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Pakistan: In a surprise government move which may slow down the eventual return to civilian rule, Air Marshal Nur Khan and Vice Admiral S.M. Ahsan have been appointed governors of West and East Pakistan respectively. The two men, who had returned to their services several weeks ago after serving as deputy martial law administrators for four months, will now relinquish their military commands. There had been some speculation that the appointment of provincial governors and cabinets would follow the recent swearing in of a national civilian Council of Ministers, but no intimation that military officers would fill these positions. [redacted]

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Bolivia: General Ovando's political plans have moved forward with the announcement of the formation of a new political party, the Revolutionary Nationalist Action. Ovando, the commander in chief of the armed forces, is the leading presidential candidate for the election next May. He can be expected to use this party as his electoral vehicle. The founding of the party was announced by Mario Rolon Anaya, an important civilian adviser to Ovando known for his anti-American and strong nationalistic attitudes. Ovando has often emphasized the importance of economic nationalism for Bolivia. [redacted]

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